

Recommended Reading 2025

FOURTH GRADE ENTERING FIFTH GRADE

Aim by Joyce Moyer Hostetter As World War II threatens the United States in 1941, fourteen-year-old Junior Bledsoe fights his own battles at home. Junior struggles with school and with anger—at his father, his insufferable granddaddy, his neighbors, and himself—as he desperately tries to understand himself and find his own aim in life. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. ©2011 Grade Level 4-6

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson - a coming-of-age story about Jesse Aarons, who befriends Leslie Burke after she beats him in a footrace. Together, they create an imaginary world called Terabithia, where they escape their problems and find joy in their friendship. ©1977 Grade Level 4-7. Newbery Medal 1978

Bob by Wendy Mass It's been five years since Livy and her family have visited Livy's grandmother in Australia. Now that she's back, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really, really important about Gran's house. ©2019 Grade Level 5-6

Eggs by Jerry Spinelli - about two children, David and Primrose, who forge a unique friendship while grappling with loss, family dynamics, and finding their place in the world. Their contrasting backgrounds and personalities lead them on an unlikely adventure, helping each other navigate their individual struggles. ©2008 Grade Level 3-7

From the Mixed-Up Files of Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg - Claudia Kincaid, a clever 12-year-old who runs away from home to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with her younger brother Jamie. While hiding in the museum, they discover a mysterious statue, a potential lost work by Michelangelo, and become entangled in the secrets of the statue's former owner, Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. ©1967 Grade Level 3-8. 1968 Newbery Medal

Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World by Reshma Saujani The world's first coders were women. Pioneers such as Grace Hopper and Ada Lovelace helped shape the programming landscape as we know it today — and yet, according to recent research from Stack Overflow, only 7.7 percent of developers in the United States are women. ©2017 Grade Level 5-6

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. Grade Level 5–7. Coretta Scott King Award ©2016

Holes by Louis Sachar - follows Stanley Yelnats, who is wrongly convicted of stealing and sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention center where boys dig holes in the desert. As Stanley and other boys endure the hard labor, they uncover a family curse, a hidden treasure, and the secrets of the past. ©1998 Grade Level 4–7. Newbery Medal 1999, National Book Award 1998

The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary by Laura Shovan Emerson Elementary is closing its doors and is due to be replaced by a shopping mall. Not everyone in this multiracial fifth-grade class feels the same about the school's imminent closure. The variety of expressive writing styles for each character makes this book unique. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis - The story follows four Pevensie children who discover a magical wardrobe leading to Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter by the evil White Witch. They must help Aslan, a powerful lion, defeat the witch and restore peace to Narnia. ©1950 Grade Level 3-6

Loser by Jerry Spinelli - Donald Zinkoss, a young character who demonstrates great self-acceptance and who is not afraid to fail. With the encouragement of his family, he learns to approach life with a positive spirit and to enjoy all that it has to offer. ©1996 Grade Level 3-7. Garden State Children's Book Award 2005, William Allen White Children's Book Award Winner 2005

Recommended Reading 2025

***Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park** A girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend. Hanna, a half-Asian girl in a small town in America's heartland, lives in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. ©1996 **Grade Level 5–8**

***Mother Teresa: In My Own Words* - by Mother Teresa** It's a way to experience the love and wisdom she shared with the poor, the dying, and those in need, offering solace and hope to readers. The book aims to inspire compassion and generosity, much like her life's work. ©2020 **Grade Level 5–6**

***Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin - Rose Howard**, a fifth-grader with autism who is fiercely devoted to her dog, Rain. When Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose embarks on a journey to find her beloved companion, learning about the world, social situations, and the importance of following rules, even when they are difficult. ©2018 **Grade Level 4-7. Schneider Family Book Award, Bank Street/Josette Frank Award, Judy Lopez Memorial Award**

***Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech** Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. ©2019 **Grade Level 5-7 ALA Notable Children's Book, Texas Bluebonnet Award Winner**

***Stargazing* by Jen Wang** Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-4**

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper** Stella lives in the segregated South in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into; some stores she can't. Some folks are right, pleasant; others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-8**

***The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo** - a small, sickly mouse named Despereaux who falls in love with a princess. Despereaux's unusual affection for humans and his courage lead him on a journey where his fate intertwines with a kind serving girl and a rat who also desires light. **2003 Grade Level 2-5. Newbery Medal 2004**

***Two Minute Drill* by Mike Lupica** - two unlikely friends: Scott, the smart but clumsy new kid on the football team, and Chris, the star quarterback who struggles in school. Through their friendship, they learn that the will to succeed can be more valuable than raw talent, helping each other improve both academically and athletically. ©2009 **Grade Level 3-7**

***Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford** Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964. ©2015 **Grade Level 3-6. 2016 Caldecott Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award**

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis** - the Watson family's journey from Flint, Michigan, to Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, as seen through the eyes of 10-year-old Kenny. The book explores themes of family, the Civil Rights Movement, and the impact of racism, culminating in a tragic event at the 16th Street Baptist Church. ©2016 **Grade Level 5–6. Newbery Honor 1996, Coretta Scott King, ALA best book for Young Adults**

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. 2016 Newbery Honor Book and 2016 Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 **Grade Level 5–6**

***We the Children* by Andrew Clements** - Benjamin Pratt, a boy who discovers a secret about his beloved old school that involves a real estate deal and the school's history. ©2010 **Grade Level 2-5.**

***When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller** When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. ©2020 **Grade Level 4-5. Newbery Medal and Asian/Pacific American Award**

***Who Was Anne Frank* by Ann Abramson** - explores the life of Anne Frank, from her childhood to the secret annex where she hid with her family, and delves into the legacy of her diary. ©2007 **Grade Level 5-8.**

Recommended Reading 2025

***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio** - 10-year-old August "Auggie" Pullman, a boy with significant facial differences, as he transitions from being homeschooled to attending mainstream school for the first time. Auggie navigates the challenges of navigating friendships, prejudice, and bullying while trying to be accepted by his classmates. ©2012
Grade Level 3-7. Maine Student Award, Mark Twain Award